

A Meeting of the Town Council was held at the Memorial Hall, Lechlade
on Monday, 3rd November 2008 starting at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Jones
Cllr Miss Coakley
Cllr Dover
Cllr Mrs Eatwell
Cllr Gould
Cllr Lambert
Cllr Mannall
Cllr Roberts
Cllr Mrs Seale
Cllr Sullivan
Cllr Whistler
Cllr Mrs Wilson

CDC Cllr Palmer
GCC Cllr Theodoulou

Mrs James - Clerk to the Council

5 members of the public

The Chairman assured councillors that all Council reserves were with Barclays Bank safe and not deposited with Icelandic banks or other offshore banks.

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Maskell.
2. Declarations of interest
No declarations of interest had been received.
3. Approval of minutes of meeting held on 6th October 2008
The minutes were approved and signed.
5. Matters arising from minutes of meeting of 8th September 2008
 - a) Allotments
The Clerk reported that she had replied to a number of enquiries from residents regarding allotments. She had informed them that Council would, further investigate the provision of allotments.
 - b) Swansfield Playground
The Clerk reported the revised quotation for repairs was £4,334.00 and work had commenced. The police had also carried out door-to-door visits to residents of the area encouraging them to report any incidents.
 - c) The Clerk reported that the dog bins had arrived and would be installed in the previously agreed locations at Ha'penny Bridge and the Recreation Ground.

Signed.....

Date:.....

d) Highways
The Clerk and Cllr Whistler would be meeting with Highways on 11th November.

e) Planning
The Clerk reported that Councillors planning training will be on the 24th November.

6. Committees

a) Communications
Cllr Wilson proposed that the front page of the website was redesigned, at no cost, to make the site more accessible and user friendly. This was agreed by Council.

b) Cycleways
Cllr Lambert reported that the next meeting would be on 18th November.

c) Emergency Planning
Cllr Coakley reported that the public meeting on 14th October had been very successful, with over 60 people in attendance. A number of individuals and local organizations, including the Lions and WI, had offered practical support. Cllr Mannell offered, storage facilities for emergency equipment, at Horseshoe Lake.

d) Planning
Cllr Roberts reported:

- The committee had met on 22nd September, 13th October and 27th October. The minutes and decisions made had been circulated. There was only one contentious application, where the committee felt that measures should be taken to mitigate potential problems with surface water. He also stressed that the planning committee adopted a consistent approach to all applications and only submitted objections to CDC for valid reasons.
- The planning committee had serious concerns about aspects of the Coln Park application to the Environment Agency for permission to discharge semi-treated sewage and chemicals into a tributary of the river Coln. Cllr Coakley said that the EA would be objecting to the proposal and were asking the developers to make arrangements for discharge into a main sewer. A number of local groups and residents have also objected. It was agreed that the Council should write in support of the EA’s objection. Cllr Roberts agreed to arrange a site visit to Coln Park for Lechlade Town councillors.
- That the planning committee has executive powers, but could bring some applications to a full Council meeting. It was agreed that more complex applications should be discussed by the full Council. However, Cllr Coakley explained that short timescales could mean that deadlines for submitting comments or objections to CDC might be missed. Cllr Eatwell pointed out that it is possible to call a special Council meeting, if necessary. Cllr Coakley confirmed that reasons are given for all objections and that Committee minutes and decisions are available on the website and in the information folders.

Cllr Roberts proposed and Cllr Dover seconded that the minutes of the planning committee meetings held on 22nd September, 13th October and 27th October be accepted, and this was agreed.

e) Playground

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Date:.....

Cllr Lambert reported that the committee would be meeting shortly. It was noted that the former playground site had been rotavated, seeded and cultivated.

f) Traffic

Cllr Coakley stated that the Lechlade 2000 meeting on 9th December would be a public meeting.

g) Christmas Lights

Cllr Wilson reported that the committee had met on 16th October and the minutes had been circulated. Arkells had sponsored the large Christmas tree and the small trees would be put up by the Lions on 24th November, ready for the 29th November switch on. The next committee meeting would be the 25th November. It was proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Eatwell that the minutes be accepted, and this was agreed.

h) Town Centre

Cllr Whistler reported:

- Bollards installed at one end of Sherborne Street were metal whereas those at the other end were oak and stressed the need for uniformity throughout the town.

Cllr Coakley reported:

- That she had attended a Highways seminar. Resurfacing the Market Place was on Highways schedule for 2010-11. However, if the Council approached Highways now, they could carry out the work sooner, using the 'hot' repair process, which lasts significantly longer than the previous cold' process. They could also repaint the signage before the onset of winter and bring the area up to a satisfactory and safe standard.

Cllr Eatwell proposed and Cllr Coakley seconded that Highways should be requested to 'hot' repair the road surface and improve the signage with immediate effect and to put the full resurfacing on the list for 2010-11. This was agreed. The Clerk said that the exact work to be carried out and the date of commencement would be agreed with Highways at 11th November meeting.

i) Cemetery

Cllr Jones said that a meeting would be arranged shortly.

j) Footbridge

Cllr Mannall reported that the committee had met on 16th October and the minutes had been circulated. The next stage of the project would be the preparation of a sales prospectus by Halcrow with a view to approaching private commercial funding sources. The Heritage Trust would be approached to fund the production of the prospectus.

Cllr Mannall proposed and Cllr Coakley seconded that the minutes be accepted, and this was agreed.

6. GCC Councillor

Cllr Theodoulou reported:

Signed.....

Date:.....

- the Crime and Disorder Partnership had launched a local campaign to dissuade adults from buying alcohol and cigarettes for under 18s.
- the current GCC revenue budget shortfall could be compensated for during the rest of the financial year, and the capital budget shortfall could be compensated for over the next three years. He also confirmed that GCC had some £12 million deposited in Icelandic banks, following government guidance, but this would eventually be returned and service provision would not be affected.

7. CDC Councillor

Cllr Palmer reported:

- the alcohol and cigarette campaign had recently been launched in Lechlade.
- CDC had some £2 million deposited with Icelandic banks, representing 6% of investments.
- most recyclable waste is dealt with in the UK, with only paper and cardboard being sent to China for recycling. CDC had the highest recycling rate in the county, with 75% of all waste being recycled or composted. Some residents were still experiencing difficulties with the kerbside recycling arrangements but the collectors should be flexible.
- the Enforcement Officer would be meeting developers about flood prevention and water run-off at Butler’s Court. St John’s Priory Park was also being investigated.
- David Neudegg had been appointed as joint Chief Executive of Cotswold District Council and West Oxfordshire on 1st September.

8. Correspondence

The Clerk drew Council’s attention to two letters. One, from a visitor who had fallen in Burford Street and the other concerning the behaviour of people fishing on the Swindon side of the river. Both letters were acknowledged and passed to appropriate bodies.

9. Town Council car park

The Clerk reported that a resident had request permission for a dropped kerb to enable vehicle access for a proposed new driveway. Several councillors expressed concerns about the safety issues of vehicles manoeuvring on a narrow roadway and also the possible backing-up of traffic into the main road. Permission was refused by Council. It was agreed that the Clerk should inform the resident of this decision and also suggest they should approach Fosseyway about possible access via the next-door driveway who had already applied for permission to extend their main road driveway, which already had a dropped kerb on to the main road and was therefore safer. It was agreed that the resident could temporarily park in the Memorial Hall car park while discussions took place, without setting a precedent for other nearby residents.

The issue of commercial vehicles parking overnight in the car park was also discussed as the car park had been designated originally for use by visitors and residents using the Memorial Hall, associated facilities and the town. It was agreed that a notice should be displayed stating that it was a private car park and overnight parking was prohibited.

10. Hambidge Lane - access to Butlers’ Field

Cllr Coakley reported that she had received several complaints from residents that the unofficial access to the field had been blocked off by persons unknown. The official access is via a stile further along Hambidge Lane. However, it is not possible to walk safely to the stile as the grass verge is not adequately mown and people are forced to walk in the roadway. It was agreed that application should be made to the landowner for permissive access at the current unofficial access.

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Date:.....

11. Meetings attended

Details of meetings attended by Cllrs Eatwell, Jones, Seale and Wilson had been circulated. Cllr Wilson explained that the Safer Cotswolds group is concerned with policing issues only, whereas the Neighbourhood Management meetings deal with wider community issues. She had also reported that the East Cotswolds Strategic Partnership and recently agreed that the core representatives on this group and the only members who could vote were councillors from the four local councils (Lechlade, Fairford, Kempsford and Quenington). Draft terms of reference and standing orders would be drafted and brought to each town/parish Council for agreement.

12. Matters outstanding

- The Chairman thanked Cllrs Coakley and Eatwell for attending the CDC Licensing sub-committee meeting at which the application for variation of the premises license at the Marina (“Adventuress”) had been refused.
- Seven Stiles footpath had again been badly affected by recent heavy rain. The Clerk will contact Highways and Public Rights of Way as the footpath should be an asset to the town.
- The Clerk will contact Highways about the lime trees in Burford Street re the footway and branches overhanging gardens in Chancel Way. She will also discuss the blue setts in the footway by the Swan archway and the paving slabs in Shelley’s Walk.
- The Clerk will also speak to CDC regarding the diseased chestnut tree in Sherborne Park.

13. Date of next meeting

Monday 1st December 2008. 7.45pm in the Pavilion

Please note the change of venue and time

Signed.....

Date:.....